



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 16 August 2005

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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## Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports Arkansas officials say con artists are using forged copies of State of Arkansas warrants as part of an international check scam, operating out of Turkey and possibly Latvia. (See item [8](#))
- The Canadian National Post reports two Toronto men are in custody in Niagara Falls, facing weapons charges after their vehicle was stopped at the Canadian border. (See item [12](#))
- The Lancaster Eagle–Gazette reports that to make sure amateur radio operators can communicate during a disaster, a system of 13 new antennas are being mounted, on a firehouse in each fire department, in Fairfield County, Ohio. (See item [25](#))

## DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

**IT and Cyber:** [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

**Other:** [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES–ISAC) –

<http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 15, Reuters* — **Power out in New York suburbs after weekend storms.** Close to 50,000 electric power customers in the Western and Northern suburbs of New York were without electric power on Monday, August 15, after a weekend of severe thunderstorms. Public Service Electric and Gas Co. (PSEG) in New Jersey said early that it had about 30,000 customers without power. The utility said it had restored power to about 54,000 customers by Monday morning. Connecticut Light and Power had reported more than 23,000 customers

without power early Monday. PSEG said it was working to restore power by the evening of Tuesday, August 16.

Source: <http://www.rednova.com/news/display/?id=207883&source=general>

2. *August 15, RenewableEnergyAccess.com* — **Quarterly U.S. wind energy market outlook.**

The American Wind Energy Association's (AWEA) quarterly market outlook for the end of the second quarter of 2005 remains the same as at the end of the first quarter, that is, that up to 2,500 MW of new wind generating capacity will be installed in the U.S. during 2005. With the official extension of the wind energy production tax credit (PTC) through the end of 2007, AWEA's initial rough estimate is that 2,000 MW or more of new capacity will be installed per year in 2006 and 2007.

AWEA Market Outlook Release:

[http://www.awea.org/news/quarterly\\_wind\\_energy\\_market\\_outlook\\_080305.html](http://www.awea.org/news/quarterly_wind_energy_market_outlook_080305.html)

Source: <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=35399>

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

3. *August 14, Associated Press* — **Ammonia leak at dairy plant causes temporary closure of Minnesota highway.** The Kohler Mix Specialties dairy plant in White Bear Lake, MN, resumed production early Sunday morning, August 14, after an ammonia leak Saturday night, August 13. Three employees of the plant on Highway 61 and a police officer were taken to the hospital for observation, said police Captain H.W. Schmahl. They were treated and released, he said. Police received the call at about 9:15 p.m., when one of plant's employees "smelled something funny," Schmahl said. They found and shut off a safety valve on the roof that was leaking ammonia. The building was aired out by midnight and production resumed early Sunday morning, said plant manager, Matt Mensink. No homes were evacuated, but Highway 61 was closed in the area for less than two hours.

Source: <http://www.grandforks.com/mld/grandforks/news/state/12378829.htm>

4. *August 14, Statesman Journal (OR)* — **Truck fire prompts closure of Oregon interstate.** A tanker carrying 10,000 gallons of hydraulic fluid caught fire while traveling southbound on Oregon I-5 Sunday, August 14, causing a brief closure of all southbound lanes south of the Baldock, OR, rest area, according to the Oregon State Police. The fire was reported around 2:30 p.m. and put out by the Aurora, OR, Fire Department before the flames reached the tanks. Northbound lanes were not affected and southbound lanes were reopened within an hour, though traffic was reported to be slow in the area at 5 p.m. No injuries were reported.

Source: [http://159.54.226.83/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050814/UPD\\_ATE/50814004](http://159.54.226.83/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050814/UPD_ATE/50814004)

5. *August 14, Statesman Journal (OR)* — **Oregon street ammonia leak shuts down businesses and homes.** A reported ammonia leak at a Salem, OR, ice cream factory shut down State Street for more than two hours Sunday afternoon, August 14, forcing residents in the area to remain inside their homes and causing several businesses to close. The leak at Deluxe Ice Cream at 1860 State Street in Salem was reported around 2 p.m. Salem police and firefighters quickly established a perimeter of safe distance away from the incident and notified area residents of

the leak. Residents were told to remain in their homes with their doors and windows shut, said battalion chief Brian Hoaglin of the Salem Fire Department. Hoaglin said ammonia is not only toxic but also combustible as well. No health problems were reported. A Hazmat team shut off the source of the leak and the scene was cleared shortly after 4 p.m.

Source: [http://159.54.226.83/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050814/UPD\\_ATE/50814003](http://159.54.226.83/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050814/UPD_ATE/50814003)

6. *August 12, Houston Chronicle (TX)* — **Fire at BP plastics unit still burning.** A fire that erupted last Wednesday night, August 10, at BP's Chocolate Bayou plant near Alvin, TX, was still burning Friday evening, August 12, despite earlier reports it had been put out. Two rotating four-person crews battled the small fire, which began with an injury-free explosion in a plastics manufacturing unit at the plant. Officials said the remaining chemicals will be purged out of the affected unit and burned off later. Wednesday's explosion occurred about 9:40 p.m. in the plant's Olefin 2 unit, which produces plastic feed stock, including ethylene and polypropylene. The 2,400-acre plant site, which operates under the name of BP subsidiary Innovene, is in a largely isolated area about 15 miles from Alvin in Brazoria County. Innovene spokesperson Dan Cummings said none of the ten people who were working in the unit at the time of the blast were injured. Cummings said the cause of the explosion remains unknown and that a five-member investigation team is at the site. Excluding the unit on fire and a polypropylene unit, Cummings said the rest of the plant was operational Thursday, August 11.
- Source: [http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/metropolitan/330742\\_2](http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/metropolitan/330742_2)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

7. *August 15, The Morning Call (PA)* — **Glitch allowed access to confidential information, but new controls are in place, official says.** During a brief period on August 4, the public had access to defendants' Social Security numbers and other confidential information on a new statewide computer system running in 48 Pennsylvania counties. Steve Schell, communications coordinator for the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, estimated there was a five- to 10-minute window during which people viewing the site — [ujportal.pacourts.us](http://ujportal.pacourts.us) — had access to information that was for the eyes of secure users only. The office estimated that during that period there were 40 to 100 hits on the site, which gives information about adult criminal records in common pleas courts. Schell said the mistake happened when the staff was changing the format of the site, which typically is done two to four times a month at the request of counties. The computer staff may create a new field or allow more characters to be entered into a field. He explained that fields that give certain information, such as Social Security numbers, were not being blocked out. The staff, he said, immediately realized the site was showing the wrong fields. "That caused alarm. We have now added additional testing measures so that it can not happen again," Schell said.

Source: [http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-a3\\_5glitchesaug15.0.2109.921.story](http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-a3_5glitchesaug15.0.2109.921.story)

8. *August 15, Associated Press* — **Forged Arkansas state checks object of international scam.**

Arkansas officials say con artists are using forged copies of State of Arkansas warrants as part of an international check scam. It appears that job hunters who post resumes online are the targets. The scam operates out of Turkey and possibly Latvia. After posting a resume, an applicant receives an e-mail from someone claiming to represent Void Computers Incorporated. The job seeker is told that the company needs help cashing checks from the State of Arkansas, one of its clients. Checks are then sent in the applicant's name with instructions that the checks be cashed and the money wired to an address in Latvia, minus a ten percent fee the consumer may keep. About ten days later, the consumer receives two counterfeit State of Arkansas checks mailed from Turkey totaling \$5,200, with the consumer's own name and address printed on them. The applicant is encouraged to avoid banks, and instead go to a check-casher, liquor store, or other similar business. Reports of the forged checks have come from Alabama and 17 other states.

Source: <http://www.wsfa.com/Global/story.asp?S=3723431&nav=0RdEdLRv>

9. *August 12, Federal Computer Week* — **Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center to offer online security courses.**

The Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC) announced on Friday, May 12, that it will offer online security courses to its members and the public. The FS/ISAC Learning Center will offer individuals and organizations a wide variety of courses on e-mail safety at work and home, identity theft, spyware and viruses, social engineering, Internet and computer ethics for children. Recently, FBI Director Robert Mueller and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff emphasized that the private sector needs to do more to protect its cybersecurity infrastructure and report breaches. The ISAC supports the disclosure of cybersecurity threats and vulnerabilities among federal agencies and financial companies and organizations.

FS-ISAC: <http://www.fsisac.com/index.cfm>

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article89916-08-12-05-Web>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

10. *August 15, Associated Press* — **Minuteman group holds training session in Houston.** The organizer of a volunteer group that has taken up the cause of combating illegal immigration brought his recruiting efforts to Houston, TX, on Sunday, August 14, comparing the group's border surveillance to that of a neighborhood watch. Minuteman Civil Defense Corp. President Chris Simcox, who trained about 30 volunteers in Houston, said he's looking for people willing to set up a lawn chair, use a pair of binoculars and program Border Patrol's number into their cell phones. "We are the nation's largest neighborhood watch program," Simcox said outside a Houston airport hangar where his members privately trained new volunteers. "We sit in lawn chairs and we observe. And when we spot illegal activity, we report that to the proper authorities." The group is planning to patrol Texas' border with Mexico in October, repeating an action it took along Arizona's border in April. Simcox said his volunteers have no contact with illegal border crossers. "We do nothing but act as eyes and support for law enforcement and Border Patrol," he said.

Source: [http://www.heralddemocrat.com/articles/2005/08/15/texas\\_news/iq\\_1923519.txt](http://www.heralddemocrat.com/articles/2005/08/15/texas_news/iq_1923519.txt)

11. *August 15, Bloomberg* — **Greece finds damaged voice recorder.** Greek authorities found the damaged cockpit voice recorder from the wreckage of the Cypriot airliner that crashed on Sunday, August 14, killing all 121 passengers and crew aboard in Greece's worst air disaster. They also recovered 118 bodies. The seven-year-old plane had logged 15,160 flight hours and 14,948 landings, said Michael Tull, a Brussels-based spokesperson for Boeing. The aircraft maker sent an investigator and two engineers to Greece from Seattle, to assist Greek authorities and Helios, Tull said. Greece's NET, citing defense ministry officials on Sunday reported that the plane crashed after a malfunction of the cabin air pressure system caused a lack of oxygen. "A decompression in itself shouldn't have led to the loss of an aircraft," said Graham Braithwaite, director of Cranfield University's Safety and Accident Investigation Center. "Crew are trained to deal with a decompression. One thing investigators will look at is the possibility the air in the plane was contaminated in another way." Helios flies to destinations such as Athens, London, Dublin, Prague and Warsaw. Libra Holidays Group Public Ltd., a tour company based in Cyprus that runs hotels, vacation packages and charter flights, bought Helios in November.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000085&sid=ab43ETVT A04s&refer=europe>

12. *August 14, National Post (Canada)* — **Weapons charges follow border check.** Two Toronto men are in custody in Niagara Falls, NY, facing weapons charges after a vehicle was stopped at the Canadian border. The two were arrested Saturday, August 13, at a border crossing in Fort Erie. Police say they seized numerous weapons and ammunition from a vehicle as it tried to enter Canada from the U.S. Authorities say the suspects, Ali Dirie of Markham and Yasin Mohamed of Toronto, are both in their 20s.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/national/nationalpost/news/toronto/story.html?id=5c7dbe14-b1e2-4a49-8df3-50bdc17e321f>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Agriculture Sector**

13. *August 14, United Press International* — **Cavendish banana could be wiped out.** The Cavendish, the version of the banana that tops most U.S. cereal bowls, is being wiped out by fungus. Banana plantations in Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, and Taiwan have been destroyed by the fungus, which is spreading through much of Southeast Asia. Experts say the fungus could wipe out Cavendish bananas worldwide. To save the banana, scientists are trying to genetically alter the Cavendish to make it able to resist the fungus. They are also developing another variety that they hope most consumers would find an acceptable substitute. In any event, this has happened before — up until the 1960s, Americans ate Gros Michel bananas, a banana that was larger and considered tastier than the Cavendish. That variety got killed by a

fungus. Bananas are the most popular U.S. fruit — the average American consumes 26.2 pounds of bananas a year.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/upi/20050814-023742-5527r.htm>

14. *August 12, Associated Press* — **Drought devastates corn, soybeans may live.** Midwestern corn has suffered irreversible harm from persistent drought, but soybeans still have a chance at solid yields, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said Friday, August 12. Stretching from southeast Texas to the Great Lakes, the drought has been worst in Illinois and Missouri, although growing conditions have been good in other parts of the Midwest. Farther south, frequent showers eased the drought last month. Dry conditions settled into the northern Plains and the Northwest, but crops there benefited from leftover moisture from the rainy spring. In the central High Plains, heat and dryness stressed pastures and summer crops. Soybeans deteriorated in early July, but by the end of the month, the crop had stabilized and was progressing ahead of normal in every soybean-growing state. This year's production is estimated at 2.79 billion bushels, down 11 percent from last year's record highs but up 14 percent above 2004. Unlike corn, soybeans flower more than once, making them more tolerant of drought, said crop analyst Stewart Ramsey of Global Insight Inc. Corn growers will see production drop to 10.35 billion bushels, down 12 percent from last year but up three percent from 2003.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP-Crop-Report.html?oref=login>

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## **Food Sector**

15. *August 13, Associated Press* — **Listeria case found in New York.** A sometimes fatal strain of listeria has turned up in the New York Capital region, and state investigators are looking for links to three cases found last month in the Syracuse area. Schenectady County health officials confirmed the single case Friday, August 12. "It looks like it's coming from the same source," said Kathy Sen, supervising community health nurse at the Schenectady County Health Department. Sen said the unidentified patient is thought to have been hospitalized with the illness last month before recovering. State health officials say the cases in Onondaga and Schenectady counties are the only ones they know of. They are looking for a food item, restaurant, or other common denominator among the four victims.

Source: <http://www.nynewsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny--listeriacase0813aug13.0.7528772.story?coll=ny-region-apnewyork>

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## **Water Sector**

16. *August 13, KVOA (AZ)* — **Spill threatens Nogales water supply.** A state of emergency has been declared in Nogales, AZ, after a chemical spill in Mexico shut down drinking water on both sides of the border. The city's water system is being protected from a sulphuric acid spill that occurred in Mexico Thursday, August 11. That's when 10 railroad cars overturned. At least two cars containing sulphuric acid spilled into the Santa Cruz River. City and County crews are

building dams half a mile from the U.S./Mexico border to keep the water from contaminating the water supply. So far the water is testing negative for sulfuric acid, however, there is major concern for residents. That's because 40 percent of their water supply comes from the Santa Cruz River. Because the crews are so close to the international border in an area known for drug smuggling and illegal border crossers, Santa Cruz County Sheriff's deputies are posted with the crews.

Source: <http://kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=3717433>

- 17. *August 12, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* — Data sought for 26 drinking water contaminants.** Twenty-six unregulated contaminants will be monitored by U.S. drinking water suppliers under a new rule proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This second cycle of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 2) also proposes the use of nine analytical methods to detect the contaminants. The data collected will help EPA determine whether to regulate the contaminants, their occurrence in drinking water, the potential population exposed to each, and the levels of exposure. EPA currently has regulations for more than 90 contaminants. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires EPA to identify up to 30 contaminants for monitoring every five years. EPA has information from some public water systems on 11 contaminants chosen for assessment monitoring but lacks a national estimate of how widely they occur. EPA needs to collect more data on the 15 selected for screening surveys because analytical methods have been only recently developed. All public water systems serving more than 10,000 people and a sample of 800 systems serving 10,000 people or fewer will monitor those contaminants on the assessment list for 12 months during July 2007 through June 2010. Additionally, 322 systems serving more than 100,000 people and 800 serving 100,000 or fewer will conduct the screening surveys during a 12-month period from July 2007 through June 2009.

Source: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/74de46851771ad928525702100565d7d/653f0c0e8844318525705b006bd174!OpenDocument>

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## **Public Health Sector**

- 18. *August 15, Reuters* — China says no sign of infected pork in Shenzhen.** Chinese officials said on Monday, August 15, they had recalled some pork in the southern city of Shenzhen but tests showed it was not contaminated with bacteria that have killed nearly 40 people in Sichuan province. A pig-borne disease caused by the *Streptococcus suis* bacteria has infected more than 200 people in China's southwest province of Sichuan and killed 39 of them in recent weeks. Authorities recalled over 2,800 pounds of pork, which originated from central Henan province, from two Shenzhen markets on Saturday, August 13, Hong Kong's Apple Daily newspaper reported. The outbreak has killed around 650 pigs in Sichuan, but instead of disposing them, many poor farmers ate and even sold them. Those who contracted the disease in Sichuan had slaughtered, handled, or eaten infected pigs. *Streptococcus suis* is endemic in most pig-rearing countries but human infections are rare. Although China's state media have said no human-to-human infections have been found in Sichuan, the infection rate and death toll is considered unusually high.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/HKG198000.htm>

19. *August 15, Agence France Presse* — **Bird flu spreads west to Russian Urals.** Bird flu has spread west to the Ural Mountains region of Chelyabinsk, officials said Monday, August 15, making this the sixth region in Russia to be affected by the disease. Sixty chickens died over the weekend in the village of Oktyabrskoye, the region's first deputy governor, Andrei Gasilov, was quoted as saying by Interfax news agency. Russia's veterinary service confirmed the outbreak, but it was not yet known whether the strain of the virus in question was of the type that can be transmitted to humans. Chelyabinsk is the sixth region affected. The others — Altai, Novosibirsk, Tyumen, Kurgan, Omsk — are further east in Siberia.  
Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050815/hl\\_afp/healthflurussia\\_050815072850;\\_ylt=Aq0dv9Hpq6.6WjNQppswLOJOrgF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU1](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050815/hl_afp/healthflurussia_050815072850;_ylt=Aq0dv9Hpq6.6WjNQppswLOJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU1)
20. *August 15, Agence France Presse* — **Polio cases reach 219 in Indonesia.** The number of Indonesians stricken by polio climbed to 219, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Monday, August 15, with 14 new cases reported in children who hadn't been vaccinated for the disease. Most of the children came from parts of Java Island, an area that has reported many polio cases already, said Sari Setiogi, spokesperson for the WHO. The polio outbreak — Indonesia's first in 10 years — has prompted authorities to vaccinate up to 6.5 million children. But authorities acknowledged earlier this month they missed 700,000 children, whose parents stayed away following erroneous media reports that the vaccine caused the death of some children.  
Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20050815/ap\\_on\\_he\\_me/indonesia\\_polio;\\_ylt=AnjA\\_YB9Quv96q2\\_gU9gYLRZ24cA;\\_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU1](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20050815/ap_on_he_me/indonesia_polio;_ylt=AnjA_YB9Quv96q2_gU9gYLRZ24cA;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU1)
21. *August 12, Montgomery Newspapers* — **Einstein Healthcare drill tests hospital response.** Beginning Tuesday, August 9, hospitals in the Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, , including Einstein/Moss Rehab in Elkins Park, PA, began one of two yearly drills designed to see how hospital staff responds in an emergency situation. "We are mandated to participate in at least two drills a year," said Steven Parrillo, who serves as the chair of the hospital's emergency management committee. During the drills, Parrillo said the hospitals have to react to an emergency situation which happens inside the building or outside. In all, more than 200 people participated as patients or responders in the drill which lasted for about two hours. As part of the project area volunteers were sent to the hospital and met with victim coordinators who supplied them with a script detailing how to act and the symptoms to exhibit. The volunteers were then sent off to a department to be evaluated by hospital staff. The staff were then required to evaluate the "victims" and respond appropriately. Parrillo said Tuesday's drill involved the volunteers exhibiting signs of exposure to organophosphate, which is most commonly used as a pesticide. Parrillo said exposure to the chemical is similar being exposed to sarin gas, but the staff members were required to figure that out for themselves.  
Source: [http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15027606&BRD=1306&PAG=461&dept\\_id=187825&rft=6](http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15027606&BRD=1306&PAG=461&dept_id=187825&rft=6)

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## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

**22. *August 15, Los Alamos Monitor (NM)* — Hazmat challenge tests abilities of teams from New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma.** A tri-state competition, the 2005 New Mexico Hazmat Challenge, matched 11 Hazmat teams in a contest of physical, mental and professional skills at the Los Alamos, NM, National Laboratory last week. Teams from New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma finished their fourth day of activities Friday, August 12, culminating in an awards announcement. More than 150 people participated, including the contestants, judges, helpers and sponsors, as well as officials from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Transportation, the University of Oklahoma and the New Mexico National Guard civil support team. After a day of orientation and training Tuesday, August 9, the teams tested their life-saving abilities on eight different technical competitions Wednesday and Thursday, August 10–11. In addition to testing their abilities, it provided the teams with a unique opportunity to network. The different teams had differing expertise to share. For example, Texas and Oklahoma teams know more about trains and have advanced chemical spill experience. New Mexicans know more about lightning, while Oklahomans, appear to know more about funnel-shaped clouds. The New Mexico Department of Public Safety is a prime sponsor of this event.

Source: [http://www.lamonitor.com/articles/2005/08/15/headline\\_news/news04.txt](http://www.lamonitor.com/articles/2005/08/15/headline_news/news04.txt)

**23. *August 14, The Sanford Herald (NC)* — Big Rig Rescue class attracts crews from all over North Carolina.** In a weekend emergency training course called, Big Rig Rescue, fire and rescue agencies from five counties responded to the twisted wreckage and mangled vehicles that dotted the landscape near Central Carolina Community College's Emergency Services Training Center Saturday, August 13, in Sanford, NC. Big Rig Rescue teaches emergency personnel the finer points of stabilizing a crash scene involving large vehicles such as cement mixers and commercial trucks. Mornings are spent in the classroom, where instructors teach workers not only how to stabilize a big rig, but what tools must be considered in each accident scenario. "Most fire departments have worked with accident scenes where they have to lift a 4,000-pound car and stabilize it," said Kevin Cieciora, an instructor who works for Chatham County, NC, Alignment and Towing. "But when you're working with a 38,000-pound truck, you've just changed the rules of the game," he continued. Later this month, the instructors will take their two-day course to the New York, where they will teach the New York City Fire Department what firefighters are learning in North Carolina.

Source: <http://www.sanfordherald.com/articles/2005/08/14/news/news03.txt>

**24. *August 13, KSDK-TV (MO)* — Disaster drill in Illinois helps emergency crews practice for airplane crash.** In a mock drill held in Washington County, IL, Friday night, August 12, emergency response teams responded as if an airplane had crashed, near Okawville, IL. They pretended there were 130 passengers, with various degrees of "injuries". "Right now, we're in the middle of a transition from a piece-meal thing, to what is called NIMS, which is National Incident Management System," said Rick Greten of the Emergency Services Disaster Agency. "And that's being required by the federal government, that we do work together," Greten continued. Their goal, beyond life-saving measures, was uniformity, whereby the emergency

response looks the same across the nation, regardless of whether the plane crashes in Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, or Idaho.

Source: [http://www.ksdk.com/news/news\\_article.aspx?storyid=83280](http://www.ksdk.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=83280)

25. *August 13, Lancaster Eagle–Gazette (OH)* — **Ten towers installed for countywide safety network in Ohio.** Using federal money, amateur radio operators and the Fairfield County, OH, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security have developed a plan to make sure there will be communications in case of a disaster. "We (amateur radio operators) are the last possible communications backup in a time of disaster," said John Hilliard, a member of the Lancaster, OH, and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club. To make sure amateur operators can communicate in Fairfield County, a system of 13 new antennas are being mounted on one firehouse in each fire department in the county, the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office, and the Fairfield Medical Center. "When it is installed, in times of emergency we are going to be able to have radio volunteers go to each firehouse and they can contact our base at the medical center," Hilliard said. "We can then communicate with the emergency operations center at the sheriff's office on Wheeling Street and hospital personnel to prepare for casualties." The radio club is comprised of volunteers and amateur radio enthusiasts and has about 100 members and can reach anywhere in the world with their radios if needed.

Source: <http://www.lancastereaglegazette.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050813/NEWS01/508130311/1002>

26. *August 13, The Sun News (SC)* — **Large ocean–rescue drill slated off the Carolina coast.** A mass ocean–rescue drill scheduled off the coast at the North Carolina–South Carolina border in January will be the first of its kind in the nation and, organizers hope, serve as a model for similar drills across the country. Ken Beans, Horry County, NC's, assistant fire–rescue chief, said the drill and exercise will give emergency crews the chance to practice their skills and to learn the process of working with other agencies. Horry and Brunswick, NC, emergency teams use different radio frequencies, and their ability to coordinate efforts in Calabash, NC, and Little River, NC, will be tested in the drill and exercise. The drills will simulate the sinking of a casino boat and the rescue of up to 600 passengers. The reason for the sinking still is being decided, but the response would be essentially the same if it were an accident or a terrorism incident. Unlike other emergency drills in the past, these will call on private boat owners and transportation as well as nonprofit emergency organizations such as the American Red Cross and Salvation Army.

Source: <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/mld/myrtlebeachonline/news/local/12374289.htm>

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

27. *August 14, Security Focus* — **Worm spreading through Microsoft Plug–and–Play flaw.** A worm started spreading on Sunday, August 14, using a flaw in the Windows operating system's Plug–and–Play functionality, according to two security groups, who advised users to update systems using a patch released by Microsoft Tuesday, August 9. Researchers at anti–virus firm F–Secure, who dubbed the worm, dubbed Zotob, do not believe that the worm will widely infect computer systems. The worm does not infect computers running Windows XP Service Pack 2 nor Windows 2003, as those systems are somewhat protected against the Windows

Plug-and-Play vulnerability. Machines that block port 445 using a firewall will also not be vulnerable, the company said. On Friday, the Internet Storm Center upgraded their threat level for the Internet to yellow, because three different groups had published code for taking advantage of the Microsoft Windows' Plug-and-Play flaw to compromise Windows machines. Microsoft's investigation into the worm indicated that it only infects Windows 2000 systems. The company verified that any system patched by its update released last Tuesday will not be infected by the worm.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/news/11281>

## Internet Alert Dashboard

### DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

**Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.**

**US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** US-CERT report a new worm known as Zotob is circulating around the Internet. It uses the recent Microsoft MS05-39 Plug and Play vulnerability as a means to propagate. It appears that this worm has code based on earlier Mytob releases and has incorporated exploit code that was publicly released this past week. Please review the following URL for more information: \*

(<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/Bulletin/MS05-039.msp>) \*

(<http://www.frsirt.com/exploits/20050812.HOD-ms05039-pnp-exp.l.c.php>)

Blocking inbound connections to port 445 will provide protection against this worm. The FTP server that the worm sets up does not run on the standard FTP port, but runs on 33333/TCP. In addition, US-CERT has received a report that the IP address 84.244.6.162 is being used to further propagate Zotob infections and US-CERT recommends that all parties be aware of any traffic flows to that IP address.

### Current Port Attacks

#### Top 10 Target Ports

21855 (---), 445 (microsoft-ds), 1026 (---), 6881 (bittorrent), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 1234 (hotline), 139 (netbios-ssn), 135 (epmap), 53 (domain), 32772 (sometimes-rpc7)

Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

28. *August 15, Associated Press* — **Package found in Washington, DC hotel not a bomb.** A major Washington, DC downtown hotel was evacuated for more than an hour Sunday, August 14, after a suspicious package was discovered in the basement, but police bomb technicians

found nothing dangerous inside it. The discovery prompted bomb technicians and the FBI terrorism task force to evacuate about 350 guests and employees from at the Mayflower Hotel, which is four blocks north of the White House. "Someone tried to make this look like a real bomb," said District Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department spokesperson Alan Etter. Evacuees were kept a short distance from the building. Bomb technicians from the DC Metropolitan Police Department disrupted the package with a small explosive charge but found no evidence of anything dangerous inside, Etter said. "It was found to be a hoax device," Etter said. Bomb technicians and police accompanied by bomb sniffing dogs were checking the entire building as a precaution.

Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/travel/hotels/2005-08-15-dc-bomb-hoax.html>

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## **General Sector**

**29. *August 15, Voice of America* — U.S. and African countries open regional terror, disaster response hub.** The United States and 11 African countries on Monday, August 15, opened in Nairobi, Kenya, a regional center as the headquarters for Golden Spear, an effort to coordinate a response to terrorist attacks and natural disasters. The 11 Golden Spear nations are Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Tanzania and Uganda. The U.S.-backed operation, launched five years ago, enables Golden Spear countries to share information on supplies of food and medicine, and train rescue authorities to deal with large-scale emergencies.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/english/2005-08-15-voa14.cfm>

**30. *August 15, EE Times* — Video surveillance software seen as weapon against terrorists.** Initially installed as a defense against routine law enforcement violations, video surveillance has become a key weapon against terrorism, according to a new report. The study, issued Monday, August 15, by market researchers Frost & Sullivan, maintains that improvements in video surveillance software will drive sales of such programs for years to come. "Against the backdrop of the recent London bombings and with the bombing suspects identified through closed circuit televisions, video surveillance has emerged as a key security technology in the fight against terrorism," the report noted. New preset algorithms and faster processors are enabling surveillance software developers to create intelligent video surveillance (IVS) software for real-time analysis. The report noted that most video surveillance software is in use in video surveillance systems in the United States, although Frost & Sullivan said it expects video surveillance to grow in European, Middle Eastern and African markets now that its use has been demonstrated in the wake of recent terrorist bombings. "The market research firm observed that the growth of the IVS market segment will also be propelled by initiatives to replace existing analog cameras with network-based systems.

Source: <http://www.eet.com/news/latest/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=168601668>

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### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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